



THE JEWISH DAILY

FORWARD

MARCH 1981

שַׁעַר זָהָב

ADAR I & II 5741

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV



"The Jews had light and gladness
and joy and honour"

P.O. BOX 5640 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94101

(415)621-2871

Buff paper

Co-Leader Connection

JET-LAG JABBERING

Contrary to popular opinion, your co-leader (male) has not permanently absconded to the Old World. The thought, however, is tempting, following a four-week excursion to some of the high and low spots of Northern Europe and Israel.

Other travel notes: Besides the usual places, I tried to look up places of Jewish historic interest while in London and Amsterdam. KLM has very thoughtfully put together a pamphlet laying out a Jewish walking tour of Amsterdam. The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, built in 1675, is the oldest existing synagogue in Europe still used for worship by a congregation. It is ancient, imposing and magnificent. Rembrandt's house is open for visits; he lived for a very long period in the midst of Amsterdam's Jewish section. The Anne Frank house is moving and thought-provoking. In London, the Jewish Museum houses a stunning collection of Judaica in an unfortunately crowded, small room. It is worth seeking out (it's conveniently located in the building housing the Chief Rabbinate on Tavistock Square) there is also an excellent bookstore. Saturday morning while I was in London I attended services at West London Synagogue, which is one of the symbols of British Reform Judaism. The synagogue is beautiful (of the same vintage as Sherith Israel, I would guess) and the service very "high", with lots of beautiful choral music. (For those of us who grew up "High Reform", it was very nostalgic!) At the moment, there are only two or three women rabbis in Britain; one of them serves at West London and led the service the morning I was there. Instead of a sermon, the Congregation adjourned to the social hall after services to sit at round tables, recite Kiddush, and then discuss at each table their reactions to a position paper issued during the centenary of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Not only was the discussion fascinating, but it was a wonderful technique for breaking down the barriers among people who otherwise might be strangers to each other. We should try it some night!

It's exciting to report that our gay Jewish sisters and brothers across the Atlantic are alive, well, and organizing. I was privileged to attend meetings of our sibling groups in London and Amsterdam, and renew acquaintances and friendships made at the Fifth International Conference with members of the French and Israeli groups. "SJALHOMO", the new gay Jewish group in Amsterdam, has been meeting since last summer. (It's pronounced Shalomo, by the way.) All of the European groups, and the Israeli Agudah, are now in touch with each other and

are starting to think about having a European mini-conference next year!

Israel is alive and well and full of people. Whirlwind impressions: the coastal area is remarkably reminiscent of the California landscape (although we don't have many minarets). Inflation is awful, the economy is bad, but people seem to survive somehow. The shops are full of goods, the streets and freeways are full of cars (terrifically expensive to own and maintain there). I'm not sure how people manage, but they do.

Gay life in Israel is still very subdued by San Francisco standards. Currently there is only one gay bar in the entire country (the Club 24, in Tel Aviv) which is approximately the size of my living room! There is a rather large disco in Tel Aviv (the Theatre Club) which attracts some 200 people on Friday nights. Otherwise, people still seem to meet largely through cruising the parks, etc. I'm afraid I have no real news of lesbian life in Israel at all, although it must exist. (Women do go to the Club 24 and the disco).

Israel could certainly use more Western gay people; those who are now there would welcome you with open arms. The government makes it very easy to immigrate; living conditions are fine (apartments, for example, are comparable in space to those in San Francisco and enjoy the same basic conveniences; public transit is excellent and inexpensive; and yes, Virginia, there are supermarkets and department stores). If you are wondering what to do with your life, you might want to include aliyah in your list of alternatives. As long as you are seriously willing to learn the language and to be flexible in your career goals (very flexible), you could make the move successfully. Obviously, the more skills and abilities you take with you, the better your chances. It also doesn't hurt to have some savings to take with you, although people do arrive penniless and build entirely new lives for themselves. In one sense, we travel with an advantage, because gay people (at least Western gays) have to be flexible and resilient in dealing with the world; that resilience is a tremendous asset when adapting to a different society and culture.

This travelogue could go on forever, so I will end my verbal slide show by saying it's good to be home (meetings and all); at the same time, I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to understand the breadth and depth of the Jewish heritage we all share. I hope everyone will have the chance to enjoy the same experiences. Shalom, *Rob*

An Answer to the 'Moral Majority'

Recently a press conference was held by some of the religious leaders of the San Francisco lesbian and gay community concerning the current campaign of the "Moral Majority".

We asked Rabbi Allen Bennett why the urgency of the statement?

"There is a threat to our security and survival as gay men and lesbians in the community, particularly as a result of the KRON-TV news series entitled "Moral War", shown the week of February 9", Rabbi Bennett said. He stated that, "during the first program a local leader of the 'Moral Majority' called for the execution of homosexual persons. When a statement like that is made on television, it is given a cloak of respectability, and it requires a response."

We then asked Rabbi Bennett what was to be gained by the joint press conference.

"We hope to communicate to the religious right wing our awareness of their intentions", Rabbi Bennett said, "and to indicate to the community, both gay and non-gay, that we are fully aware of the threats to our rights, freedoms, and security." He added, "We are acting now to protect and guarantee those rights."

The statement was issued by the Rev. Jane Adams Spahr, Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns and Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco, Rabbi Allen Bennett, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Ken Kammann, Co-Chair of Dignity, Bay Area, and the Rev. Jim N. Dykes, Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco.

Calling for "immediate and total denunciation of these voices of fear and hate. We urge the truly religious, whatever their views on homosexuality, to renounce the use of coercion, force, or violence against gay and lesbian people."

The statement pledges to the "Moral Majority" and their allies, "our unmitigated opposition. Within any and all forums of this still free society, we will meet your hatred with our love, your fear with our hope, your ignorance with God's wisdom."

"But hear us clearly. We shall not wait passively for others to destroy us. If your hatred and fear bring forth their vile results, if you do attempt to break our community, drive us into hiding, and hunt us down, then with God's help we shall call upon our people to defend themselves."



From Where I Stand

Allen Bennett, Rabbi

Within the last few weeks an article by Jimmy Breslin appeared in one of our local papers. Entitled, "The Moral Majority in Your Motel Room", it described the plans of the Reverend Jerry Falwell and company to introduce legislation on the local, state, and federal levels, which will "call for motels located on interstate highways to rent rooms only to those couples who are legally married."

My reaction to this was mixed - a mixture of frustration, rage, disbelief, and fear. And this fear was reawakened recently when I spoke at a local synagogue on the subject of Judaism and Homosexuality, only to find that there were people in the audience, Jews, survivors of the Nazi holocaust, who did not believe that Falwell and his ilk bode ill for the civil rights of all Americans. This is by no means an issue which affects gay people alone. There is no group which will remain untouched by the madness of the Moral Majority.

As I passed by a Presbyterian Church the other day, one which offers Sunday worship services in both English and Japanese, I noticed the sermon topic on the information board in front: "The Danger of the Moral Majority".

We live in a city, as columnist Earl Raab puts it, full of political liberals and cultural conservatives. And while this may be true, that kind of thinking is completely antithetical to the philosophy of liberal Judaism which holds the greatest hope for our future. The watchword of that philosophy, enunciated by Alvin Reines, Professor Philosophy at the Hebrew Union College, is: "My freedom stops where your freedom starts".

For better or for worse, San Francisco seems to be the place where people live that attitude. While we have plenty of people visible in our population whom we would rather not see, we also have many people here who find acceptance nowhere else in the whole country.

We are in a peculiar position. If we are gay or lesbian, we may have struck an uneasy alliance with Judaism here in the Bay Area. If we are simply alive, then we are constantly confronted these days by the "radical right" or "fundamentalist fanatics", most of whom are interested not only in our moral reform, but also in our eradication.

It is imperative that you know that I, as rabbi of this congregation, will not allow these kinds of challenges to our inalienable rights and freedoms to go unmet. Using whatever means I can, I will speak as clearly and as forcefully as I can to whomever I can, whenever I can, not as an apologist

for gay or lesbian people or for Jewish people, but as a member of a threatened group. The clear threat comes from the throwbacks to forty or fifty years ago who systematically deprived millions of people of their rights and freedoms, solely on the basis that the victims were "different". In that light, we, as openly gay or lesbian people, will be seen as different, just as we will be seen as different because we are Jews. That difference is critical because it can be the building block for a healthy self-image at the same time that it can be the stumbling block for our true freedom in this society. If we choose to be known as gay or lesbian, we take the accompanying risks of discrimination, life threat, suffering, and so on. But if we hide, then we run the risk of being discovered, just as the Jews who hid their true identities in the Nazi years ran the risk, and the consequences will be just as bad.

I believe that there is some strength and security in numbers, a belief which never claimed much of my attention in the past. But I now understand how critically important it is, not only for "those others" out there, to know that we are everywhere, but for us as well. To be aware that there is no place in American life where we are not is both a way of feeling secure in a world which is making us paranoid, and a way of making "them" take note that "they" had better be careful not to tread on us. I must also put you on notice that I shall be calling on you from time to time to step forth with me, to take risks which you never dreamed you'd take, so that you and those who follow you won't have to go through this sort of humiliation ever again.

This problem won't solve itself; it won't go away just because we don't like it. We shall have to work and work hard to overcome the forces that would try to destroy us. Be with me, in prayer and in action, as we move forward into our future together. Together we can maintain (and, hopefully, expand) our freedoms. Without those freedoms, we die. So look ahead to hearing from Sha'ar Zahav. You are our reason for being. You give us the strength to go on. In that sense, when you hear the words from Isaiah, "Who will go for us? Whom shall I send," you can respond, as Isaiah did, "Here am I, Send me."

Allen

Va'ad Briefing

At the February meeting of the Va'ad, Irene Ogus, Treasurer, reported that the Congregation is in excellent financial health. We are currently investigating various financial plans for receiving higher interest rates on our funds.

Building Chair, Paul Cohen, suggested the possibility of using Herbst Hall for High Holiday services. The hall offers us 900 comfortable seats. Consideration of other sites has not been ruled out.

The Personnel Evaluation Committee has not completed its Rabbi review. Therefore, the Rabbi's contract which expires March 1, 1981 has been extended to June 1, 1981. The new contract will be in harmony with the Va'ad elections and the fiscal year.

Ron Moskowitz of the Publicity Committee presented a proposal for a comprehensive publicity campaign. The proposal passed unanimously. He added that the publicity campaign will go into action immediately. Ron stated that the Publicity Committee is preparing a new brochure on committee descriptions so new members can be familiar with the various committees and how they function.

Oneg Chair, David Ben-Jacob, said the Seder, Sunday, April 19th, ticket prices are as follows: \$20 for members, \$23 for guests, \$25 for sponsors, and \$10 for persons age 16 or under.

Bryan Taylor, Newsletter Chair, said the committee is formulating an editorial policy to serve as a guide for articles submitted for publication. The editorial policy will be presented at the March Va'ad meeting.

Finance Chair, Bob Levy, reported on the recent meeting with fundraiser Hal Nappan and members of the Va'ad. Those present at that meeting discussed possible sources for donations. The issue of confidentiality was also raised to protect all persons.

Leila Raim, Membership Chair, announced a campaign to encourage members from last year who haven't repledged to do so. Va'ad members were asked to staff the greeting table at Shabbat services on a rotating basis.

Haim Gamburg, Education Chair, suggested films as part of our educational program.

Aaron Cooper, Program Chair, said 35 people attended the January Tupperware party. The event raised \$165 for the Congregation. The committee is considering a series of Saturday film evenings. Aaron also mentioned the possibility of a

Purim costume party to be held on the Saturday following Purim.

Bikur Cholim Chair, Sam Thal, reported that only five people responded to the committee membership form which was run in the Forward. He suggested we run the form again.

The proposal by Isabel Auerbach, health field specialist, to work with individual members of the Va'ad to achieve greater group effectiveness, was passed.

We thanked Irene Ogus for the use of her home.

The March Va'ad meeting will be at the home of Ron Moskowitz, 220 Santa Rosa Ave., Sausalito, at 10 a.m., Sunday March 8.

PURIM!!

As every socially aware individual knows, all of San Francisco is wild with anticipation for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's Annual Purim Celebration. The city is a fantastic flurry of frenzy as masses of people rush to and fro preparing for this memorable event. Come one, come all!

THE RELIGIOUS EVENT OF THE MONTH!

Hear the words of the Megillah read simultaneously in Hebrew and English. Meet Esther and Mordechai. Blot out Haman's name with your personal grogger!

THE FASHION EVENT OF THE YEAR!

Join men and women, girls and boys, young and old, be-decked, bejeweled and bewildered in an attempt to win the coveted "Best Costume Award". (A gift certificate from Dressed to Kill).

Witness a very fashionable person tastefully judge the participants!

THE CULINARY EVENT OF THE DECADE!!!

Dust off those baking pans and soak those poppy seeds for the Annual Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Purim Hamentaschen Bake-off. Dazzle your friends with flaky pastry and juicy jams. Win the fabulous "Most Memorable Hamentaschen Award"! (Dinner for two at Dennebeim's Kosher Vegetarian Restaurant).

Don't miss it! Thursday evening, March 19, 1981, at 8:15 at the Jewish Community Center.

Remember

Bombings, terror, intimidation, and propaganda have increased dramatically in the past six months against Argentina's Jewish community of 400,000. A neo-Nazi publication with Hitler and Mussolini on the cover is being sold openly in the heart of Buenos Aires, Argentina, despite an alleged policy crackdown. Inside the issue of Papeles, published by the Aryan Nationalist Integral Party, one article glorifies the Nazis convicted at Nuremberg and calls their accusers "criminals".

In response to this increasing Argentinian anti-semitism, the English-language Buenos Aires Herald has challenged the legality of Papeles and asked, "Why is Papeles in its seventh month of publication?" We ask the same question!



Holocaust Memorial

Rabbi Allen Bennett of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has been invited by the Mayor's Office to serve on the Holocaust Memorial Committee. The purpose of the committee is to develop a memorial to victims and a commemoration to survivors of the Holocaust.

Open Page

Dear people,

I was really excited to hear that Dennis Prager was coming to Berkeley Hillel this Feb. 1981. After all, a person only 32 years old who is head of a famous Jewish Institute (Brandeis-Bardin) must be exceptionally intelligent and/or wise. And, indeed, Prager did turn out to be unusually provocative and insightful about what it means to be a Jew.

Prager, however, knows very little about what it means to be a Lesbian or Gay person. He grouped Gay Jews with "adulterers and swingers." He felt glad that Judaism supports only heterosexuality, and he was opposed to Gay and Lesbian synagogues. Prager goes on to mention the great amount of assimilation among Alexandrian Jewry, and blames this on homosexuality.

Dennis Prager reminds me somewhat of Eldridge Cleaver. Cleaver has an excellent understanding of his Black oppression, but should keep his mouth shut when it comes to women's issues (Cleaver thinks that wife-beating is just fine). Similarly, Prager has a brilliant understanding of the Jewish predicament, but should refrain from discussing Lesbian and Gay Jews until he has some facts.

First of all, homosexuality is not a CHOICE, but is a G-d-given gift. We could not change our sexual preference if we wanted (which we don't). Prager doesn't know this because he doesn't know Gay people. And I am damn tired of being someone's hypothesis. I am a human being. We Jews should know better.

Homosexuality has always been with us, in all cultures, all eras, and among all economic classes. Our homosexuality is an integral part of who we are, and is a Divine manifestation of G-d's spirit.

Does Prager expect us merely to be baby-making machines, denying our true natures and our emotions, simply to satisfy Prager's close-minded, pre-programmed ideas of who we should be? If we married, would it be fair to the heterosexual partner, if we were false with our feelings? Or are we expected to be celibate our whole lives. No thanks.

It is people like Prager who force us to create Gay synagogues. Until Jews open their minds and hearts, Gay and Lesbian Jews must either leave their Jewish culture behind or form their own groups. Prager and his ilk actually encourage assimilation because of their bigotry.

It seems that to Prager, like to the Moral Majority of Christians, reproduction is more important than honesty. Isn't quality more important than quantity? Gay Jews can and do

contribute to the Jewish community and to Jewish survival in myriad ways besides reproduction (and besides, many of us have children of our own).

There were many Lesbian and Gay Jews in the audience that night at Hillel when Prager spoke. They came for wisdom, but left condemned and angry. I pray that they have the courage to see beyond Prager's limited vision.

As Rabbi Hillel taught, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me..."

Shalom,
Dov ben Khayyim

Dignity and Self-Esteem Workshops

Workshops have been organized and are now available free to all members and friends of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. The goal of these three hour workshops will be to increase our dignity, self-esteem, and value as human beings. The workshops will focus on:

1. The traditional role of relationship building in Judaism.
2. Our responsibilities as lesbians and gay men in establishing healthy role models through developing viable coupling lifestyle patterns.
3. To cultivate, and disseminate, a greater knowledge and sharing of experiences relative to the supports to and dysfunctions of relationship building along Jewish, cultural, socialization, and structural lines.
4. To create greater understanding, personal awareness, and knowledge of gay and lesbian coupling patterns in the community at large in order to facilitate and share the nature, theory, and practice of establishing stable and integrated relationships.

There will be four experiential workshops; one each for men, women, seniors, and one open.

Refreshments will be served and time for socialization and a question and answer period will be provided.

For further information, please call Mark Resnick or David Gass at 346-7077.

Reaching Out...

The Speakers' Bureau and other Outreach activities are under way. The members of the Outreach Committee hope you will join them and participate in the committee. Please contact Cheryl Orvis, Outreach Committee Chair, through Sha'ar Zahav (621-2871) or at 861-8142 in the evening.

The letter reprinted below has been sent to several hundred Bay Area organizations including both secular and non-secular gay and non-gay groups.

Shalom Friend,

As Chair of the Outreach Committee of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, the Bay Area synagogue with a focus on meeting the needs of gay and lesbian Jews, I extend warm greetings to you from our membership.

It is the purpose of the Outreach Committee to enhance relationships with other congregations and organizations in both the religious and secular communities. In addition, this Committee promotes programs beneficial to the Congregation and the community and which work toward the elimination of social injustice. Along these lines, several years ago, we founded a Speaker's Bureau which provides members of our congregation to meet with and address other community groups. Our Speakers have discussed a wide range of topics including, but not limited to, the subject of Judaism from our unique perspective. We believe that a program by our Speaker's Bureau can be of interest and value to your members. We have Speakers to match the interests and needs of virtually every group and hope that you will contact us to arrange a Speaker's Bureau program.

Our Congregation worships G-d in accordance with the principles and practices of Judaism and seeks to cultivate greater knowledge of the history, traditions, and ideals of Judaism. To this end, we employ an ordained Rabbi and boast the highest attendance at Sabbath eve services of any San Francisco congregation. Sha'ar Zahav stimulates an awareness of our responsibility to serve our fellow human beings and to see that all people come to realize their own value and dignity. We strive to accomplish these goals within the context of integrating our Jewish heritage and experiences with our gay or lesbian lifestyle.

Please use the enclosed postcard to indicate your interest in arranging a program. Upon receipt of your response we will be in touch to discuss a program and arrange its date. We very much look forward to meeting with your group.

Sincerely,

Cheryl
Cheryl Orvis
Chair, Outreach Committee



Information and Resource Group on Gay Male Parenting

An eight-session resource and support group is being formed for gay male couples who are interested in raising children.

This group is intended primarily for those couples who are clear in their desire to adopt and raise children. We will not act as a therapy group for problem solving or conflict resolution.

For approximately five of the eight sessions, invited speakers will address the group on a variety of issues bearing on gay male adoption. The speakers will include:

1. One or more gay male couples who have already adopted children.
2. An attorney specializing in family law and adoption.
3. A representative from the county welfare department which evaluates the suitability of prospective parents, and makes recommendations to the Court.
4. A representative from an adoption agency, to discuss the formal process involved in seeking to adopt through the agencies.

A major focus of the group will be on discussing the implications of our own relationships, our ties to friends and extended family, and the unique issues our children may face.

The sessions will be held in Berkeley on evenings convenient for the majority of participants. For more information and to reserve a place in the sessions, please call Aaron Cooper at 549-0505.

Congregational Seder

SECOND NIGHT: SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will be hosting a traditional seder on the second night of Pesach, Sunday, April 19, at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn, Pine and Van Ness, San Francisco. Ticket prices are: \$20 for members, \$23 for non-members, \$25 for sponsors, and \$10 for persons age 16 or under. A reservation form is included in the center of this issue.



Family Seders

FIRST NIGHT: SATURDAY, APRIL 18

In addition to Sha'ar Zahav's traditional congregational seder (on the second night of Pesach, Sunday, April 19), members and non-members of the shul are invited to have small family-style seders in individual homes on the first night of Pesach, Saturday, April 18. If you are interested in hosting or attending and helping with a small (4 to 10 persons) seder in a home, please fill out the form in the center of this issue. Please mail the form by April 1.

You will be notified (about April 10) by mail who will be in your seder family. It will then be the responsibility of the seder co-ordinator for the group to organize the seder among the group members.

Bits & Pieces

COUNSELING

Ernie Weinstein, M.A., a member of the Congregation, is offering reduced rates to members of the synagogue who are interested in individual, couple, and family counseling. Call Ernie at 566-1985 for further details.

MORE TUPPERWARE

Do not fear if you missed the Sha'ar Zahav Tupperware party. Scott Chase will be hosting a Tupperware party as a benefit for the national tour of the Gay Men's Chorus. Call Scott at home, 863-1998, or at work, 768-5396, for information as to when and where.

OUR THANKS

We thank The Baphron, the newsletter of Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, for the recent announcement of the time and location of our Friday evening Shabbat services.

PARENTS OF GAY PEOPLE

Parents of Gay People of the Greater Bay Area meets on a regular basis. The organization is active in their support of gay rights. If you are interested in further information, please write: Parents of Gay People, P.O. Box 5362, San Mateo CA 94402.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Two gay attorneys, practicing in Oakland, have reached the opinion that you don't need a high priced attorney to handle all your legal affairs. Their new book, A Legal Guide for Gay and Lesbian Couples, by Hayden Curry and Denis Clifford, Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1980, \$10.95, is now available at most bookstores. Check it out.

Art Agnos to Speak

The annual meeting of the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, Inc., will be held March 21 at the First Unitarian Center, Franklin and Geary, San Francisco. Assemblyman Art Agnos will be the featured speaker. The meeting is open to the public and will offer a potluck dinner.

For further information, please contact Rabbi Allen Bennett, 621-2871.

February Onegim

February 6: By Aaron and Kurt for Aaron's 30th birthday

February 13: By Haim Gamburg

February 20: By Ron and Bruce for Ron Wolberg's birthday

February 27: By the Membership Committee

Oneg, Ltd.

New members are needed to serve on the very busy Oneg Committee. A commitment of one Friday evening a month and occasional emergency help are all that is required.

Oneg sponsors are also always needed. Sponsoring an oneg is a wonderfully enjoyable mitzvah made easy by a helpful committee. Dishes and other supplies are available.

For more information regarding either the Oneg Committee or oneg sponsorship, please contact David at 776-1289.

David

Russian Jewish Emigré Tutor Program

The Outreach Committee of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav would like to bring to the attention of our members that the Emigre Department of the JCC and the Jewish Family and Children's Services are looking for volunteers for its Emigre Tutor Program. The Program involves spending one hour a week for approximately ten weeks visiting recently arrived Russian Jewish emigres. The hour will be spent in the emigre's home, sharing coffee and conversation with a newcomer to our city and country, providing practice in English conversation to supplement formal classroom English instruction. Volunteers will be paired with individuals or families on the basis of age, location, interests, and/or profession.

Through this one-to-one tutoring program, members of our congregation can participate in Sha'ar Zahav's Outreach Program to help members of the community, as well as to learn, first hand, what life is like for Jews today in the Soviet Union. For further information about this program, contact Pete Tannen (861-4045 days or evenings) or Stephanie Kipperman of the Jewish Family and Children's Services (567-8860).

Ritual Calendar

- Friday, March 6 TORAH PEKUDEI
ROSH CHODESH ADAR II
Exodus 38:21 - 40:38
" 30:11-16, Num. 28:1-15
Haftarah
I Kings 12:1-17
Isaiah 66:1-24
Rabbi Bennett, Services
- Friday, March 13 TORAH VAYIKRA
Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26
Deuteronomy 25:17-19
Haftarah
I Samuel 15:2-34
Richard Marks, Services
Marc Lipschutz, Sermon
- Thursday, March 19 FAST OF ESTHER
PURIM SERVICE 8:15 p.m.
Reading of Megillah
Book of Esther
Ritual Committee and Friends,
Services
- Friday, March 20 FEAST OF PURIM
TORAH TZAV
Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36
Haftarah
Jeremiah 7:21 - 8:3
" 9:22-23
Rabbi Bennett, Services
- Friday, March 27 TORAH SHEMINI
Leviticus 9:1 - 11:47
Numbers 19:1-22
Haftarah
Ezekiel 36:16-38
Laurie Radovsky and Rabbi Ben Marcus,
Services



Yahrzeits

Ariel Thal, Father of Sam Thal	March 16
Nathaniel Tannen, Father of Peter Tannen	March 17
James Robert Rankin, Father of Mike Rankin	March 27
Samuel J. Phillips, Father of Victoria Phillips	March 28

Birthdays

Nathan Osser	March 6
Aryae Levy	March 10
Dana Vinicoff	March 10
Michael Abbott	March 12
Daniel Ashkenazi	March 24
Melvin Cordoba	March 26
Mark Feldman	March 27
Harold Parker	March 29
Sandy Pomerantz	March 29

Donations

Cynthia Schorr	Paul Margolis
Mel and Trudy Edwards	William Bragman
Paul Glackman	Arlene Hoffman
F. Hyman	Philip Charney
Mina Cohen	Marc Lipschutz
Terri C. Savitsky	
Dr. A.G. Beauregard Lowell IV	

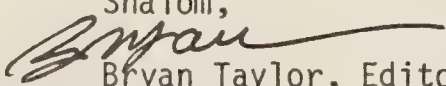
CHANGE OF ADDRESS	
<p>If you're moving, please allow six weeks for processing time.</p>	<p>Attach current address label here.</p>
<p>NEW ADDRESS:</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____</p>	<p>Mail to:</p> <p>Sha'ar Zahav P.O.Box 5640 S.F. CA 94101</p>

Briefly From Bryan

Over 300 of you responded by returning those cards which said, "Yes, I want to continue receiving the Forward." For that dynamic response we love you, and thank you.

Dealing with the U.S. Postal Service can often make Alice Through the Looking Glass seem perfectly logical. Approximately 70 return cards were held up by the Post Office. These return cards were necessary for us to have for our February mailing.

We now have all the return cards and you should receive our newsletter uninterrupted. Thank you for your understanding, support, and patience.

Shalom,

Bryan Taylor, Editor

Another Mazel Tov! to Seattle

We appreciated receiving the first edition of the newsletter of Seattle's gay synagogue.

The congregation is meeting in the homes of members every second and fourth Friday for Shabbat services.

A synagogue telephone number, (206) 325-8172, is now in operation. Soon the congregation will have its own P.O.Box.

To submit any articles for publication, or to request a copy of the newsletter, please contact: Marvin Joe Shuck
1014 East John St.
Seattle WA 98102

New Jewish Agenda Report

Last December 24, approximately 700 Jews met in Chevy Chase, Md. to formulate a new Jewish agenda for the '80's. The group came together as a result of a need for alternatives to the "Jewish establishment" organizations.

The Agenda is actively seeking contact with disaffiliated segments of the Jewish community. It is committed to Jewish survival by actively supporting feminism, gay and lesbian rights, concern for the environment, democratization of the Jewish community, and opposition to present Israeli policies, including the West Bank settlements.

At the conference between 80 and 100 lesbians and gay men participated, with lesbians far out-numbering gay men. A gay and lesbian task force was established by the Agenda.

For membership information, write: New Jewish Agenda,
150 5th Avenue, Suite 1002, New York NY 10011.

6th International Conference -- Alive and Well in Philly!

The Sixth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews is set for July 2-5, 1981, at the Holiday Inn at Independence Mall, Philadelphia. The Conference this year is being hosted by Congregation Beth Ahavah.

Workshops and seminars are now being planned to facilitate religious, social, and personal issues. Exciting events such as a July 4th river cruise and fireworks, walking tours of Philadelphia and much more are being scheduled.

Make your plans now as Sha'ar Zahav is preparing a tour package. More details on the tour arrangements will be forthcoming. For more Conference information, write: Sixth International Conference, P.O. Box 7566, Phila. PA 19101.

Reclaiming Holidays

As modern Jews we sometimes feel strangers to the Jewish calendar. We celebrate Pesach, the High Holy Days, and Hannukah. But, unfortunately, Shavuot and Succot, Simchat Torah and Lag B'Omer, Purim and Tish B'Av, slip by unnoticed.

Purim presents us with an opportunity to make Judaism a living, vital force for ourselves and our young people. It is a time for dressing in costumes, exchanging gifts, and, of course, eating hamentaschen. It is one of those very rare occasions in the year when the Jew is obligated to become drunk! May you be so drunk this Purim you can't tell the difference between Mordechai and Haman!

Purim tells the story of a Jewish community saved at the last minute from total devastation. Though the story is probably fictional, it is based on a terrible reality: our lives have all too often hung in the balance. Purim is a time for us to look at the many tragic incidents which crowd our history and to smile and laugh in spite of them. Purim is a time when we can thumb our noses at those who have oppressed us and shout joyfully to our God: Am Yisrael Chai - the people Israel lives!

Steven Fritsch Rudser
Chair, Ritual Committee



שַׁעַר זָהָב
SHA'AR ZAHAV



BIKUR CHOLIM SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP
(chicken soup committee)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ (home) _____ (work)

What days of week and times might you be available
to help in volunteer services to other members ?
(This is not an obligation of time, only a survey)

_____ (days) _____ (times)

What city (or area of city) is most convenient for
you, or might you be willing to travel in ?

What services would you most like to do? (visiting
the sick in homes or in hospital, do errands, help
in transportation, shopping, feeding pets, house
sitting, phoning on a regular basis, etc.) UNDER
LINE or add any services.

Do you have a car? _____ Other transportation _____

Could you do physical things? (lifting, cleaning,
shopping, carrying packages) _____

Do you have any special talents, training, or
experience for specific problems? (alcohol abuse,
mental illness, physical illnesses, physical
therapy, pet care, letter writing, etc.)

Could you help in training others in above? _____
COMMENTS _____

MAIL TO: BIKUR CHOLIM SOCIETY
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
P.O. Box 5640
San Francisco, CA 94101

MARCH 1981 'ב' אדר א' אדר ב'

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 כד	2 כו	3 כז	4 כח	5 כט	6 Rosh Hodesh Adar II RABBI'S LECTURE 8:00 AM 5:00 PM	7 Rosh Hodesh Adar II Shabbat Shekalim
8 ו VADIA'S MEETING 10 A.M. MOSKOWITZ'S HOME: 220 Sausalito 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	9 ז 10 A.M. MOSKOWITZ'S HOME: 220 Sausalito 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	10 ח	11 ט	12 י SHABBAT SHEKALIM 8:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM	13 יא SHABBAT SHEKALIM 8:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM	14 יב Shabbat Zakhor
15 טו	16 טז	17 יז	18 יח Purim 8:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM	19 יט Ta'anit Esther 8:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM	20 כ Purim 8:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM	21 כא Shushan Purim
22 כב	23 כג	24 כד	25 כה	26 כו Purim 8:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM	27 כז Purim 8:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM	28 כח Shabbat Parah
29 כט	30 ל	31 א				

PLEASE NOTE:
MEMBERS
ARE REQUESTED
TO ATTEND
TO ALL MEETINGS
AND TO BE ON
TIME IN
THE MEETING
ROOMS
ON FRIDAY
EVENING
OF AGOG
SYNAGOG

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

Passover Seder Reservation Form

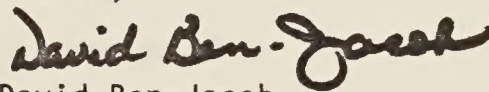
The annual Sha'ar Zahav seder will take place on the second night of Passover, Sunday, April 19, 1981 at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn at Pine and Van Ness in San Francisco. The seder will begin at 6:00 pm.

The facilities will accomodate 400 people, and we ask that you make your reservations as early as possible. All reservation forms must be received by Monday, April 13, 1981.

Regular, kosher, and vegetarian meals will be available. Please be sure to indicate your food preferences on the registration form.

We encourage everyone who is able to purchase sponsor tickets. Proceeds from sponsor tickets enable us to invite members of limited means to join us at the seder. Any member who might not be able to attend the seder because of the ticket price should call me at 776-1289 (or leave a message for me on the Congregation's answering machine at 621-2871) to discuss an adjustment in the admission charge. (Any request for such an adjustment will of course be treated confidentially).

Shalom,



David Ben-Jacob
Chair, Oneg Committee

PLEASE DETACH THIS FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR CHECK TO David Ben-Jacob, P. O. Box 99651 Station O, San Francisco, California 94109. Be sure to make your check payable to SHA'AR ZAHAV ONEG ACCOUNT. All forms must be received by Monday, April 13, 1981.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

Number of Member Tickets _____ @ \$20.00 each = \$ _____

Number of Child's Tickets _____ @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____

Number of Guest Tickets _____ @ \$23.00 each = \$ _____

Number of Sponsor Tickets _____ @ \$25.00 each = \$ _____

(under 16 years)

Number of: Regular Meals _____

Kosher Meals _____

Vegetarian Meals _____

Total Payment enclosed \$ _____

We appreciate your including a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Thank you.

Passenger Ticket Reservation Form

The carrier's agent will take care of the ticket and the money. The ticket will be issued at the time the money is received. The money will be paid at the time the ticket is issued.

The ticket is valid for travel on the carrier's aircraft. It is not valid for travel on other carriers' aircraft. The ticket is valid for travel on the carrier's aircraft.

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John D. Jones
John D. Jones
John D. Jones

PLEASE PRINT THIS FORM AND MAIL TO THE CARRIER'S AGENT. The carrier's agent will take care of the ticket and the money. The ticket will be issued at the time the money is received. The money will be paid at the time the ticket is issued.

Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____
State	_____
Zip	_____
Telephone	_____
Number of Adult Tickets	_____
Number of Child's Tickets	_____
Number of Infant Tickets	_____
Number of Senior Tickets	_____
Number of Special Tickets	_____
Number of Regular Seats	_____
Number of Special Seats	_____
Number of Senior Seats	_____
Number of Child's Seats	_____
Number of Infant Seats	_____
Number of Senior Seats	_____
Number of Special Seats	_____
Number of Regular Seats	_____

Number of Adult Tickets

SHA'AR ZAHAV FAMILY SEDER FORM-----FIRST NIGHT: SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Work: _____

If you want to attend with another person, write his or her name here and send both forms in together:

Participation:

Check all items that you would consider doing. Seder groups will be arranged so that all will share in the preparation.

1. Provide home in which to have seder
Number you can accommodate (including yourself) if item 1 is checked
2. Cook seder dinner (food and other costs to be shared by all participants)
3. Provide part of seder dinner or wine
4. Provide ritual items and food (Maror, haroset, horseradish, seder plate, matzoh cover, small gift for Afikoman finder, etc.)
5. Lead service
6. Call others in your seder group and be responsible for coordinating the seder preparation

Type of seder: Traditional Service
 Short, informal service
 Kosher
 Vegetarian

Other considerations: (allergies to smoke or pets, have pets in your home)

Compatible seder groups will be arranged, to the extent possible, based on the responses to this form.

MAIL TO: Family Seder Groups
 c/o Pete Tannen
 289 States St.
 San Francisco CA 94114

MAIL BY APRIL 1

